

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 01604 01 OF 02 101133Z

15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01

OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 AGR-05 SWF-01 IO-10 EUR-12 /109 W

----- 010506

R 100450Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 266

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LAHORE 1604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EIND, EAGR, PK

SUBJECT: WATER AND POWER CRISIS

REF: LAHORE 1533

BEGIN SUMMARY: LATEST CHECK WITH GOP AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS IN LAHORE INDICATES THAT FULL IMPACT OF EXPECTED WATER AND POWER SHORTAGES WILL BE FELT AS SCHEDULED DECEMBER 11 IN NORTHERN PART OF PAKISTAN. OFFICIALS PLACED DIFFERENT EMPHASIS UPON LIKELY EFFECTS OF RECENT RAINS, BUT BELIEVED THAT WEATHER MAY HAVE INDUCED FARMERS TO PLANT MORE WINTER WHEAT. THEY OUTLINED THEIR PLANS FOR REDUCED POWER AND WATER SUPPLY THROUGH WINTER. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN OFFICER CALLED ON PUNJAB IRRIGATION SECRETARY S.M. AYUB DEC 7 TO DISCUSS IMPENDING WATER SHORTAGE. AYUB OPINED THAT LATE RAINS EXPERIENCED IN PUNJAB AND
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PAGE 02 LAHORE 01604 01 OF 02 101133Z

NORTHERN AREAS DEC 2-4 HAD COME AT PARTICULARLY HAPPY

TIME. HE NOTED THAT MANY PUNJABI FARMERS HAVE REFUSED TO SOW WINTER WHEAT IN DRY SOIL, AND EXPECTED THAT RAINS WOULD INDUCE MORE OF THEM TO PLANT AT FASTER RATE. HOWEVER, HE AGREED IT WAS ALMOST TOO LATE FOR PLANTING HIGH-YIELD VARIETIES.

2. AYUB BELIEVED RAINS HAD HELPED PROVINCE AVOID MAJOR AGRICULTURAL CALAMITY. EXPLAINING, HE CALCULATED THAT LAST RAINS WOULD RAISE POND LEVEL AT MANGLA DAM RESERVOIR BY ABOUT TWO FEET, WHICH LED HIM TO PROJECT FOLLOWING MINIMUM AVAILABILITY RATES FOR IRRIGATION WATER: DURING SOWING SEASON, FARMERS WOULD RECEIVE 62 PERCENT OF NORMAL SUPPLIES; DURING DEVELOPMENT PERIOD, THEY WOULD RECEIVE 50 PERCENT; DURING RIPENING PERIOD, THEY WOULD RECEIVE 43 PERCENT. AYUB THUS PROFESSED MILD OPTIMISM, SAYING WHAT PUNJAB FACED NOW WAS "CROP SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 1 MILLION TONS; BUT NOT A DISASTER."

3. ON DEC 6, WE DISCUSSED POWER SITUATION WITH WAPDA MEMBER FOR POWER AFTAB SAEED KHAN. ASKED IF RAINFALL HAD MADE ANY DIFFERENCE TO WATER LEVELS IN MANGLA RESERVOIR OR OTHER STORAGE AND WATERWAY AREAS, KHAN RETORTED THAT RAIN WAS MERE "DRIZZLE" THAT HAD HAD "ZERO" EFFECT ON WATER LEVELS AT MANGLA AND IN FIVE PUNJAB RIVERS, AS FAR AS HYDEL GENERATION WAS CONCERNED. HE EXPLAINED THAT RESERVOIRS DEPENDED UPON HEAVY RAINFALL IN CATCHMENT AREAS FOR MAJOR PART OF THEIR WATER SUPPLY AND POINTED OUT THAT ANYTHING THAT FELL IN CATCHMENT AREAS IN THIS SEASON WOULD BE SNOW, WHICH WOULD REMAIN ON SLOPES AND NOT BENEFIT RESERVOIRS.

4. ON OTHER HAND, SECRETARY AYUB CLAIMED THAT STATISTICS FOR WATER FLOW IN JHELMUM RIVER (MANGLA DAM IS ON JHELMUM) FOR PERIOD ENDING DEC 6 SHOWED THAT UP TO DEC 1 DAILY FLOW AVERAGED 3,900 CUSECS. THIS COMPARED WITH 33-YEAR AVERAGE OF 8,500 CUSECS FOR THIS PERIOD, AND WAS ABOUT 33 PERCENT BELOW PREVIOUS RECORD LOW OF 4,600 CUSECS. AS RESULT OF RAIN, AYUB'S FIGURES SHOWED THAT AVERAGE FLOW HAD RISEN TO 5,492 CUSECS; STILL BELOW AVERAGE, BUT SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN 33-YEAR LOW.

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PAGE 01 LAHORE 01604 02 OF 02 101249Z

47

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CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 267

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LAHORE 1604

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5. KHAN STILL EXPECTED POWER SHORTAGE IN NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM TO BECOME INTENSE ON DEC 11, PRIMARILY BECAUSE WATER IN MANGLA RESERVOIR IS FAST APPROACHING MINIMUM LEVEL FOR POWER GENERATION. HE MAINTAINED THAT WAPDA WAS WORKING VERY HARD TO TRY TO COPE WITH PROBLEM AND BRIEFLY OUTLINED WAYS IN WHICH AUTHORITY PLANS TO MEET SHORTAGE. NOTING THAT SCARP TUBEWELLS CONSUME ABOUT 35 PERCENT OF ALL POWER GENERATED IN NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM, HE SAID WAPDA'S FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO CUT OFF POWER TO SCARPS FOR ADDITIONAL TWO HOURS EACH DAY. (COMMENT: HE ASSERTED THAT SCARP TUBEWELLS WERE "NORMALLY" SHUT DOWN FOR TWO HOURS EACH DAY; THUS, ENFORCED REDUCTION OF POWER SUPPLY BY WAPDA WOULD KEEP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 LAHORE 01604 02 OF 02 101249Z

TUBEWELLS FROM OPERATING FOUR HOURS PER DAY. THIS REPRESENTS NO CHANGE FROM WAPDA PLANS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.) HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON AGRICULTURE.

6. NOTING THAT INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR 50 PERCENT OF POWER CONSUMPTION IN NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM, KHAN SAID AS FIRST STEP, GOVERNMENT HAD ORDERED INDUSTRIES TO STAGGER THEIR WEEKLY HOLIDAYS. MOREOVER, SOME CONTINUOUS-PROCESS INDUSTRIES HAD AGREED TO CLOSE DOWN FOUR DAYS IN A ROW PER MONTH.

IF THESE MEASURES WERE NOT SUFFICIENT, GOVERNMENT WOULD THEN ORDER INDUSTRIES, SHOPS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO CLOSE TWO DAYS PER WEEK. IF NECESSARY, HE SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD MOVE TO MORE STRINGENT MEASURES, INCLUDING CLOSING BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRIES AS MANY AS THREE OR FOUR DAYS PER WEEK.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO STATUS OF GAS TURBINE POWER GENERATION PLANT AT LYALLPUR, KHAN WAS SOMEWHAT MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN RECENT WAPDA PRESS RELEASES ON SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT WHILE RECENT SESSION WITH WEST GERMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (KFW) OFFICIALS CAME OFF "WELL," HE WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THINGS WERE MOVING AS QUICKLY AS THEY SHOULD. ALTHOUGH AT LEAST ONE GAS TURBINE HAD ARRIVED IN LYALLPUR AND WAS CURRENTLY BEING INSTALLED, HE DOUBTED IT COULD COME ON LINE BEFORE END OF JANUARY. (COMMENT: KHAN REFUSED TO BE PINNED DOWN AS TO HOW MANY OF THE EXPECTED EIGHT TURBINES HAD ACTUALLY ARRIVED IN LYALLPUR. WEST GERMANS TOLD PRESS THAT ENTIRE LYALLPUR PLANT WOULD BE OPERATIONAL BY END OF YEAR, BUT KHAN INDICATED HIS MOST OPTIMISTIC TARGET DATE FOR PUTTING TWO OR MORE TURBINES ON LINE WOULD BE MID-FEBRUARY.)

8. AT ONE POINT DURING CONVERSATION WITH KHAN, HE WAS ON TELEPHONE FOR SOME TIME, WHICH ENABLED DPO TO SCAN INTERNAL WAPDA DOCUMENT OUTLINING PROJECTED POWER SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM, AS WELL AS PRIORITY LIST OF STEPS WAPDA PLANNED TO TAKE TO MEET PROJECTED SHORTFALL IN POWER GENERATION. CHART INDICATED THAT SHORTFALL OF ABOUT 1 MILLION KWH WAS EXPECTED BEGINNING DEC 11, AND THAT SITUATION WOULD BECOME STEADILY WORSE THROUGH MID-FEBRUARY, WHEN 2.8 MILLION KWH SHORTFALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAHORE 01604 02 OF 02 101249Z

WAS EXPECTED. (HOWEVER, KHAN LATER REVEALED THAT PROJECTED IMPROVEMENT WAS BASED ENTIRELY UPON ASSUMPTION THAT LYALLPUR PLANT WOULD COME ON STREAM BY MID-FEBRUARY.) LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR ATTACKING PROBLEM WAS AS OUTLINED ABOVE. LAST ON LIST WAS COMPLETE SHUTOFF OF POWER TO COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, HOMES AND INDUSTRIES. (IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT LIST DID NOT PROVIDE FOR DENYING POWER TO SCARP TUBEWELLS MORE THAN FOUR HOURS PER DAY.)

9. PERHAPS OF MINOR INTEREST, AYUB NOTED THAT ABOUT 75 MW OF ELECTRICAL POWER IS PRESENTLY GENERATED AT SMALL HYDEL INSTALLATIONS PLACED AT IRRIGATION HEADWORKS THROUGHOUT PUNJAB. HE TOLD US PUNJAB GOVERNMENT WAS THINKING OF ADDING 75 MW CAPACITY TO EXISTING SETUP. POWER WOULD BE PRIMARILY USED FOR LOCAL TUBEWELLS AND VILLAGE ELECTRIFICATION, AND WOULD NOT BE HOOKED

INTO WAPDA'S NORTHERN GRID SYSTEM.

10. COMMENT: WE SEE NO REAL INCONSISTENCY IN WHAT TWO OFFICIALS TOLD US, SINCE ONE IS CONCERNED WITH IRRIGATION WATER AND THE OTHER WITH POWER GENERATION BY HYDEL AND OTHER MEANS. FARMERS GENERALLY BENEFITTED FROM RECENT RAINS, BUT RAINS NOT ENOUGH TO PROVIDE STEADY AND PROLONGED FORCE NEEDED TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY OR ASSURE FULL MEASURE OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION SUPPLY THROUGH WINTER. WATER AND POWER CRISIS IS REAL AND SHORTAGES ARE APPARENTLY COMING AS PREDICTED EARLIER (SEE LAHORE 1442).
SPENGLER

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